

What is claimed is:

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1. A β -1.3-1.6glucan obtainable from *Aureobasidium* medium.
2. The β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1, ~~obtainable from *Aureobasidium* strain FERM P-18099.~~
3. A method for producing β -1.3-1.6glucan comprising:
culturing an *Aureobasidium* fungus that produces β -1.3-1.6glucan in a culture medium for a time and under conditions suitable for production of β -1.3-1.6glucan in said culture medium.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said *Aureobasidium* fungus that produces β -1.3-1.6glucan is strain FERM P-18099.
5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising recovering β -1.3-1.6glucan from the culture medium.
6. A culture medium produced by the method of Claim 3.
7. The culture medium of Claim 6, wherein said medium contains about 3-5 mg/ml of *Aureobasidium* β -1.3-1.6glucan.
8. A composition comprising from about 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the undiluted culture medium of Claim 6.
9. A composition comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.
10. A food product comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.
11. The food product of Claim 10, wherein said food product is aseptic.
12. The food product of Claim 10, which is a health food or a nutritional supplement.
13. A cosmetic or personal care product comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.
14. An antimicrobial solution or disinfectant comprising the β -1.3-1.6glucan of Claim 1.
15. A composition for binding to, or for removing, an environmental contaminant

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